FEMA REGION 8

# NORTH DAKOTA RISK MAP UPDATE

WINTER 2020

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## FEMA'S NEW MITIGATION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) is a new FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation program that will support actions to reduce risks before a disaster strikes. The new program will prioritize innovation in mitigation planning activities, such as multi-hazard planning or private-public partnerships.

BRIC is a result of the 2018 Disaster Recovery and Reform Act (DRRA), which amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to support mitigation planning and projects. BRIC replaces the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program and will shift to research-supported, proactive funding. BRIC will look to:

- Support community capability and capacity building.
- Encourage and enable innovation.
- Promote partnerships.
- Enable large public infrastructure projects.
- Maintain flexibility.
- Provide consistency.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR BRIC FUNDING?

| APPLICANTS | SUBAPPLICANTS |
|---|---|
| ◆ **All 50 states and Washington, D.C.** | ◆ **Local governments** |
| ◆ **U.S. territories** | ◆ **Tribal governments** |
| ◆ **Federally recognized tribal governments** | ◆ **State agencies** |
| | ◆ **Tribal agencies** |

Applicants and subapplicants **must** have a FEMA-approved mitigation plan by the application deadline.

Additionally, subapplicants will need to submit their project and planning subapplications through the new FEMA Grants Outcomes (GO) website. New subapplicants should work with their State Hazard Mitigation Officer or FEMA liaison to create an account today.

### HOW IS BRIC DIFFERENT FROM PDM?

BRIC provides communities with the flexibility to determine how they can best support their own mitigation and resilience initiatives. While PDM was funded through annual congressional appropriations, BRIC will use funding that is set-aside from the disaster relief fund. This will provide more consistent funding for communities to help plan for long-term risk reduction investments.

FEMA will fund BRIC from a 6% set aside of estimated disaster expenses for each major disaster and allocate it for BRIC. While BRIC will have some variability in available funds, it will provide a much steadier source of pre-disaster funding. For example,

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if BRIC was available in 2017, an estimated $3.4 billion would have been available in 2018 for projects to reduce loss of life and property. Funding will be available annually.

BRIC also goes beyond project funding and will look at key areas that help communities plan ahead to reduce losses from disasters:

- **Technical Assistance**: BRIC can provide non-financial technical assistance to promote a program, identify potential projects, develop and review applications and mitigation plans, and provide training on grants management.
- **Capability and Capacity Building**: Communities can now receive funding to increase their ability to reduce risk and move mitigation projects forward. BRIC can provide applicants with financial assistance to expand or improve implementing their program, creating and supporting partnerships that reduce risk, developing mitigation priorities and plans, and more.

### Mitigation Planning Activities Eligible for BRIC Funding*

- Preparing a new plan or plan update.
- Updating sections of the current FEMA-approved mitigation plan.
- Securing hazard identification or mapping and related equipment for implementation.
- Purchasing GIS software, hardware, and data.
- Evaluating, updating, adopting, and/or implementing land development codes.

- **Mitigation Projects**: Like the PDM grant before it, BRIC will fund cost-effective projects that will increase resilience and public safety.
- **Management Costs**: BRIC can provide financial assistance for managing and administering projects.

## PDM ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR BRIC FUNDING*

- **Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition**
- **Property Acquisition and Structure Relocation**
- **Structure Elevation**
- **Mitigation Reconstruction**
- **Dry Floodproofing of Historic Residential Structures**
- **Dry Floodproofing of Non-residential Structures**
- **Generators**
- **Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects**
- **Non-localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects**
- **Structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings**
- **Non-structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Facilities**
- **Safe Room Construction**
- **Wind Retrofit for One- and Two-Family Residences**
- **Infrastructure Retrofit**
- **Soil Stabilization**
- **Wildfire Mitigation**
- **Miscellaneous/Other**

**This is not a complete or exhaustive list of eligible activities*

FEMA opened the application period on September 30, 2020. The grant application is available through January 2021. Project selection is tentatively set for summer 2021.

For more information about BRIC, please visit FEMA.gov/BRIC.

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## PREPARING FOR WINTER HAZARDS

The winter season brings holidays and good cheer, but it can also bring several natural hazards. Winter storms, extreme cold, ice jams and severe winds all occur during the winter months and can last several hours or days.

**WINTER STORM:** A winter storm is a storm in which the main types of precipitation are snow, sleet or freezing rain. A winter storm can range from a moderate snowfall or ice event over a period of a few hours to blizzard conditions with wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Most injuries from winter storms are not directly related to the storm itself, but result from traffic accidents on icy roads, medical emergencies while shoveling snow, or hypothermia from prolonged exposure to cold. (NOAA, 2018)

**SEVERE WINDS:** Damaging winds exceeding 50-60 miles per hour can occur during winter storms. These winds can have severe impacts on buildings, pulling off the roof covering, roof deck, or wall siding and pushing or pulling off the windows. (FEMA, 2014 and NOAA, 2018)

**EXTREME COLD:** Extremely cold air comes every winter in at least part of the country and affects millions of people across the United States. The arctic air, together with brisk winds, can lead to dangerously cold wind chill values. People exposed to extreme cold are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia in a matter of minutes. (National Weather Service, 2018)

**ICE JAMS:** Ice jams are a form of winter flooding that occurs when warm temperatures and heavy rain cause snow to melt rapidly. Snow melt combined with heavy rains can cause frozen rivers to swell, which breaks the ice layer on top of a river. The ice layer often breaks into large chunks, which float downstream, piling up in narrow passages and near other obstructions such as bridges and dams. (Northeast States Emergency Consortium, 2018)

**Impacts from winter natural hazards can include disruption to infrastructure and transportation systems; loss of power, heat, and communication systems; crop and forestry damage; damage to buildings and homes; and injury or loss of life. Take these steps to help protect yourself and property:**

- Insulate, caulk, or weather strip your home to keep out the cold
- Insulate water pipes or let them drip to prevent freezing
- Trim tree branches that could fall on a house
- Repair roof leaks and clear leaves and other debris from gutters
- Purchase home smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and test battery backups
- Spread rock salt or sand on driveways and walkways
- Create emergency supply kits for the home and car, including ice scrapers, medications, water, blankets, backup cell phone chargers, pet supplies, and extra batteries for radios and flashlights. Remember to gather supplies to last for several days without power
- When possible, stay off the roads. If trapped in your car, stay inside
- Learn the signs of and basic treatment for hypothermia and frostbite

## LOCAL JURISDICTIONS CAN ALSO REDUCE RISK ACROSS THEIR COMMUNITIES BY

- Installing signage where roads frequently ice
- Providing warming centers during storms
- Communicating before, during, and after a storm
- Burying powerlines
- Trimming trees near powerlines

For more information and how you can protect yourself from upcoming winter weather, visit ready.gov/winter-weather.

## ADVISORY, WATCH, AND WARNING—OH, MY!

**Knowing the difference between weather terms can help you determine what actions to take to best protect you and your family. The below terms can describe the timeline and severity of an approaching storm.**

**Advisory**: The National Weather Service (NWS) issues a Winter Weather Advisory when conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous. If you use caution, these conditions should not be life-threatening.

**Watch**: A Winter Storm Watch is when severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow or ice, may affect your area, but the location and timing are still uncertain. A Watch is usually issued 24 to 72 hours in advance of a potential severe storm of 7 inches or more in 12 hours or less or 9 inches or more in 24 hours.

**Warning**: A Winter Storm Warning is when 4 or more inches of snow or sleet are expected in the next 12 to 36 hours. Criteria for snow is 7 inches or more in 12 hours or less or 9 inches or more in 24 hours. Criteria for ice is a half inch or more. A Warning may also be issued if a storm is expected to hit during high-traffic times.

# NORTH DAKOTA RISK MAP UPDATE



## YOUR COUNTY'S RISK MAP PROGRESS

**YEAR 1**

**Phase 1**
**DISCOVERY MEETING**

5 Active Risk MAP Projects (non-legacy) in North Dakota–more detailed flood risk information is being created:

**YEAR 2-4**

**Williams**
FY15 & FY 18 Funded

**Phase 2**
**ENGINEERING & MODELING**

**Phase 3**
**FLOOD RISK REVIEW**

**Phase 4**
**PRELIMINARY MAP RELEASE**

**Phase 5**
**APPEAL PERIOD**

**YEAR 3-5+**

**Phase 6**
**LETTER OF FINAL DETERMINATION**

**Phase 7**
**ADOPTION & COMPLIANCE**

**Phase 8**
**RESILIENCE MEETING**

**Phase 9**
**EFFECTIVE MAPS**

Timing and sequence may vary by county

**All 53 Counties**
North Dakota is the first state to have risk analysis completed in every county

**Oliver**
**Mercer**
**McLean**
**Logan**
**Golden Valley**
FY19 Funded

**Stutsman**
**LaMoure**
**Dickey**
FY18 Funded

**Emmons**
**Burleigh**
FY18 Funded

**Stark**
FY17 Funded
Appeal Period ended 11/3/20

**Ward**
FY17 Funded ended 11/3/20

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